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IDEA 0587-68

Copy 10 of 10

12 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report to West Coast

25X1A

The following covers high lights of General Ross' and [redacted] West Coast visit 5, 6 and 7 August 1968:

25X1A

1. Upon arrival at Los Angeles, the party was met by [redacted] and given a thorough and detailed briefing of his functions and responsibilities. The space used by [redacted] is considered most adequate, neat and properly utilized. The visit was most interesting and impressive. There were no action items resulting from this visit.

25X1A

2. Next visit was to the Lockheed, Burbank, facility wherein [redacted] of Lockheed, Burbank, were contacted. Mr. Kelly Johnson was not available.

25X1A

a. The visitors were shown the U2R assembly line and work currently in progress. There were no problems or action items cited requiring Headquarters' action. [redacted] and [redacted] gave an excellent tour and explanation of the work in progress and methods employed on the assembly line.

25X1A

25X1A

b. We next visited Hangar 351, the fabrication hangar, wherein work on the twelfth U2R was nearing completion. We also noted the wings from 056 in the jig where repairs were being made. This facility was neat, clean and functionally well organized.

c. The following are special interest items brought out during the LAC visit:

25X1A

(1) [redacted] confirmed previous knowledge that Mr. Kelly Johnson's association with special projects was being curtailed due to medical reasons. It was indicated that [redacted] would no doubt ultimately assume the responsibilities as relinquished by Mr. Johnson.

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25X1A (2) [ ] recent assignment to monitor U2R responsibilities was noteworthy. It was quite apparent that he is getting a handle on some of [ ] and other U2R problem areas. 25X1D

(3) The absense of an additional future work load at Burbank was emphasized. Considered opinion was that, unless new projects are forthcoming, much of the plant space and personnel will be rightfully transferred to other LAC projects--most likely the 1010 air bus.

25X1A 3. The morning of 6 August, we proceeded via [ ] wherein [ ] gave a tour of the facilities and an update briefing of SCOPE COTTON actions thus far. 25X1A

a. It was quite apparent that SCOPE COTTON was well in hand and that planned actions were either ahead of or on schedule. By 15 August, the old A-12 maintenance and trailer housing areas will be closed down and the services and utilities terminated. Likewise, the support aircraft function will be moved to the north end of the base. This will result in better management and utilization of resources, personnel and facilities.

b. The required support for TAGBOARD was well identified and being provided. Within the week TAGBOARD operational personnel will be occupying the major portion of the old Operations Building. Detachment operational supervisory personnel would be relocated to that portion of the building previously known as the Base Operations and Training Area.

c. By and large, all military personnel are receiving excellent personnel action on their forthcoming reassignments. A review of the rated personnel to remain after 20 August resulted in the decision to transfer the T33 on or about 20 August 1968. This will then leave the C-130, HU-1 helicopter, U3, F-27 and the 210 for required support and proficiency flying as appropriate.

25X1A d. [ ] Supply Officer, is carrying out all supply activity in an outstanding manner.

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25X1A

e. Attached is [ ] recommendation for functions and organization subsequent to his and [ ] departure after 20 August 1968.

25X1A

4. We then proceeded to Edwards North Base wherein we were given an excellent briefing and tour by [ ] and his staff. There were no major problems cited which have not been covered by other message traffic.

25X1A

a. Special interest items included:

- (1) need for key personnel replacements within the next year
- (2) recent difficulties experienced with the U2R oxygen system
- (3) new pressure suit

25X1C

5. Early morning 7 August we proceeded to the Palmdale facility and viewed the U2C IRAN/Mod line and storage of the A-12 aircraft. There were no problems associated with the Palmdale visit.

25X1A

[ ]  
Deputy for Operations, OSA

CONCURRENCE:

25X1A

[ ]  
Director, Special Activities

Attachment  
as stated

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D/O/OSA [ ] (12 Aug)

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